TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

January 15, 2002

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I think we're being highly alarmists here now. There are a number of practical reasons why the scenario described to you simply would not happen, but even if it did happen, it would be pulled on Select File and that would be the end of the matter. In addition, the Speaker can pull it at any time and I would expect him to if any shenanigans were going on. That's why we have a speaker. What's happening right now is a mixture of sweetness and sourness. Alarmists, then sweet talk us, and then, again, the bomb, the ending of consent calendar for another year just when we were about to forget. Consent calendar worked very well for us in the early nineties when we were using it. It was not abused. It can work again. It separates out the small stuff and the big stuff. It simplifies our whole operation. It can work very efficiently. Three people can pull it off up until the second before the vote. It has plenty of protections. I think it can work. I hope you will stay the course on the amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, this time as Senator Beutler was speaking I read through the proposal and I would like to ask him a question.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator, would you respond?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Beutler, as a preliminary so I will get your understanding of how the rules work, is the Speaker bound by the explicit language of the rules just as a member of the body would be bound?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Well, to the extent that the rule is clear, yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Where in this provision, all of which is underlined, does it give the Speaker the authority to pull a bill off consent calendar while it's being debated and prior to a vote being taken?